

## **RECOVERY FUNDS AT WORK IN OHIO**

### **Wilson Announces \$106 Million for Weatherization Programs**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Wilson is pleased to announce that the Department of Energy is providing \$106,712,564 to expand weatherization assistance programs in Ohio. These funds will help Ohio achieve its goal of weatherizing more than 32,000 homes over the next three years.

“This is one more example of Recovery Act funds being put to good use in Ohio,” said Wilson. “These funds will help create jobs, reduce harmful effects on our environment, and weatherize thousands of homes. It’s a win-win because after the work is done, thousands of families will save money on heating and energy bills. I applaud the Department of Energy for its efficient distribution and oversight of these funds.”

As part of its nationwide “Weatherization Assistance Program,” the Department of Energy (DOE) is releasing over \$453 million with the goal of weatherizing more than 165,000 homes in 15 states including: California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Maryland, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, and West Virginia. Funds will be available to families making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (about \$44,000 a year for a family of four), with states spending approximately \$6,500 to weatherize each home. According to the DOE, these weatherization projects will allow low-income families to save money by making their homes more energy efficient, resulting in average savings of 32 percent for heating bills and savings of hundreds of dollars per year on overall energy bills.

In total, Ohio is set to receive more than \$266 million in Recovery Act weatherization funding with today’s announced funds accounting for 40 percent of that amount. An initial 10 percent was allocated for training and ramp-up activities. After demonstrating successful implementation of its weatherization plan, Ohioans can expect to receive an additional \$133 million – the final 50 percent – for completion of the statewide projects. Of these funds, up to 20 percent may be used to hire and train workers.

The Ohio Office of Community Services (OCS), part of the Ohio Department of Development’s Community Development Division, will distribute these funds across all of Ohio’s 88 counties by

working with 35 subgrantees. Concurrently, OCS will strive to preserve and enhance the state's long-term weatherization capabilities.

How to Apply: Funds will be added to the State's Weatherization Program. Individuals can apply for the Ohio Department of Development Energy Assistance Programs at <http://www.development.ohio.gov/cms/uploadedfiles/CDD/OCS/Revised%20App.pdf> or by calling 1-800-282-0880.